

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



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June 8, 2007

Dr. Norman Finkelstein
32245 Ocean Parkway #3A
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Dear Dr. Finkelstein:

After careful and lengthy consideration of the recommendations and materials forwarded to me by the faculty review committees at the university, college, and department levels, I uphold the decision of the University Board on Promotion and Tenure ("UBPT") to deny your application for tenure and promotion to associate professor.

According to DePaul's Faculty Handbook, the President can only overturn the UBPT's recommendation in rare circumstances and for compelling reasons. I find no compelling reasons to overturn the UBPT's decision.

The Political Science Department voted 9-3 in favor of tenure, submitting statements for the majority and minority, with a rejoinder from the majority. The College Personnel Committee voted 5-0 to support tenure and promotion, with reservations that it asked Dean Charles Suchar to note in his report. Dean Suchar issued a written opinion against tenure. The UBPT voted 4-3 against tenure, submitting a summary of its deliberations which is quoted in its entirety below:

By majority vote, the [UBPT] does not recommend promotion to associate professor with tenure for Norman Finkelstein. Aware of the controversies surrounding this case, the [UBPT] has been particularly mindful of the need to follow the policies and procedures outlined in the Faculty Handbook. In doing so, however, the [UBPT] was reminded of broader expectations and professional standards by which the faculty at DePaul are obliged to comport themselves as members of the academic profession and as members of the DePaul intellectual community. The [UBPT] acknowledges Professor Finkelstein's record of accomplishment. By all accounts, he is an excellent teacher, popular with his students and effective in the classroom. He is a nationally known scholar and public intellectual, considered provocative, challenging and intellectually interesting, although the dossier reveals some division of opinion as to the soundness of some of his scholarship. Although the two external reviewers are favorable, comments from the department minority report are critical of the accuracy of some of the evidence he uses in his scholarship and the cogency of some of his arguments. The [UBPT] found his service at the departmental level to be limited, with no service at the college or university level.

